

6
MEMORANDUM

TO: The Vice President
FROM: Colonel Burris
RE: World Highlights

SANITIZED
Authority Stat. W-2-79 + NSC 2-23-79
By 108 NARS, Date 7-24-79

Cuba

Behind the drama of the prisoner exchange there has been little of significance occurring in the area. Photography has revealed no unusual activity or significant changes. Large numbers of Soviet personnel remain in Cuba although there have been indications that certain withdrawals might take place. The parade of January 2 produced no surprises but served as an occasion for Castro to voice his determination to be the spearhead in the spread of Communism in Latin America. He confirmed that Cubans are being trained in the operation of the air-defense missiles and warned that an incident could occur. As you will recall, the President has requested the preparation by State and Defense of a contingency plan in the event one of our reconnaissance planes is shot down. Apparently the plan has not yet been completed.

Soviet Union

Khrushchev and his colleagues have been generally quiet in the aftermath of Cuba, and it appears that they are still assessing their policies. Initially the general Soviet theme was the necessity to take lessons from the Cuban affair and to renew efforts toward cooperation and coexistence. In a contradictory sense, however, there has been a violent anti-U.S. campaign going on in the Soviet Union. It has been directed at the medium level of U.S. activities and has assumed the familiar criticism of western influences in customs, art and conduct. The President thus far has been spared except for an attack on his "warlike statements" to the Cuban refugees in Miami last week. Certain items of interest have occurred in the space and military fields but these will be reported separately.